



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,658	01/08/2002	Bonnie S. Clark	P21506	8996

7055 7590 12/03/2003

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

TAYLOR, BARRY W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2643

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/038,658

Applicant(s)

CLARK ET AL.

Examiner

Barry W Taylor

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Driskell et al (U.S. 6,072,493 hereinafter Driskell).

Regarding claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 25 and 30. Driskell teaches system and method for associating services information with selected elements of an organization (abstract), comprising:

retrieving billing information from a billing repository (abstract, col. 3 lines 18-67, col. 16 lines 34-41, col. 20 lines 23-36);

processing the billing information in accordance with customer-defined format stored in a database, the customer-defined format comprising hierarchy (abstract, col. 1 lines 45-56, col. 3 lines 18-39, lines 49-67, col. 5 lines 33-62, col. 6 lines 17-37, lines 52-55, lines 61-65, col. 7 lines 5-17, col. 8 lines 41-45, lines 54-55, col. 8 line 66 – col. 9 line 3, col. 9 lines 27-58, col. 10 lines 47-49, col. 11 lines 29-65, col. 12 lines 48-60, col. 13 lines 28-30, col. 16 lines 15-17, lines 62-65);

sending the processed billing information to an output operation where a bill is generated in accordance with the hierarchy (col. 1 lines 12-20, col. 1 line 65 – col. 2 line

7, col. 6 line 17 – col. 7 line 40, col. 8 line 46 – col. 9 line 67, col. 11 lines 4-65, col. 13 lines 28-30, col. 15 lines 15-28, col. 16 lines 8-65);

sending the bill to customer (col. 1 lines 12-20, col. 1 line 65 – col. 2 line 7, col. 6 line 17 – col. 7 line 40, col. 8 line 46 – col. 9 line 67, col. 11 lines 4-65, col. 13 lines 28-30, col. 15 lines 15-28, col. 16 lines 8-65).

Regarding claims 2, 5, 10-12, and 19-21. Driskell teaches the hierarchy is organized according to corporate structure and/or geographical location of company units (see figures 3-7 and figures 9-10 wherein both corporate and geographical used in hierarchy, figure 15 also shows division, branch, department (i.e. corporate structure) affiliated with geographical location (i.e. western region or eastern region), figure 17 clearly shows corporate structure (see the XYZ Corporation) associated with region, state, city and branch).

Regarding claims 3, 6, 8-9, 13-15, 17-18, 22-24, 26, 28-29 and 31. Driskell teaches the customer-defined format comprises customer-defined labels, passwords, etc., (see company name and description in figures 3-7 and figures 9-10, col. 16 lines 62-65, col. 28 line 62 – col. 34 line 67).

Regarding claim 27. Driskell also teaches displaying billing information from multiple telecommunications carriers, each having a distinct billing system, therefore not affecting upstream billing (col. 6 lines 28-37, col. 8 lines 39-45, lines 54-55, lines 66-67).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor whose telephone number is (703) 305-4811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 customer service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600